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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   **(Currently Amended)**   A method ~~of signal transmission~~, comprising overlapping a plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals using carrier frequencies that are orthogonally spaced relative to an integral multiple of a bit rate_rather than a chip rate_

2.   **(Original)**   A method of claim 1, further comprising common frequency-hopping encoding said plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals.

3.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 1, further comprising individual, differential frequency-hopping encoding each of said plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals.

4.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency-hopping modulation is performed in a continuous-phase manner.

5.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 1, further comprising time-hopping encoding said plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals.

6.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 5, further comprising frequency-hopping encoding said plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals.

7.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 1, wherein overlapping includes synchronously allocating each of a plurality of users to one of a plurality of orthogonal channels.

8.   **(Currently Amended)**   The method of claim 1, wherein overlapping includes encoding a frequency shift in a subset of bits that ~~compose~~ define a code word.

9.   **(Currently Amended)**   The method of claim 1, wherein overlapping includes establishing a bit- clock synchronization; and
          further comprising multiplying an incoming signal by an estimate of a desired signal; and integrating a product over an integral multiple of a bit period rather than a chip rate

10.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 1, further comprising retransmitting one of said plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals.

11.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 1, further comprising checking one of said plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals with an error-correcting code.

12-14. **(Canceled)**

15.   **(Currently Amended)**   A computer program, comprising computer- or machine-readable program elements translatable for implementing a ~~the~~ method of ~~claim 1~~ signal transmission including overlapping a plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals using carrier frequencies that are orthogonally spaced relative to an integral multiple of a bit rate rather than a chip rate.

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16-24. (Canceled)

25.   **(Currently Amended)**   A computer program comprising computer program means adapted to perform the steps of overlapping a plurality of direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals using carrier frequencies that are orthogonally spaced relative to an integral multiple of a bit rate when said program is run on a computer rather than a chip rate

26.   **(Original)**   A computer program as claimed in claim 25, embodied on a computer-readable medium.

27.   **(Cancel)**

28.   **(Currently Amended)**   A ~~The~~ method ~~of claim 27~~ comprising, providing a direct-sequence spread-spectrum communication system that increases a number of users by utilizing a plurality of closely spaced orthogonal carriers that produce overlapping spectra, wherein a spacing of the plurality of orthogonal carriers is based on a ~~symbol~~ bit rate and not a chip rate.

29.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 28, further comprising frequency-hopping encoding the overlapping spectra.

30.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 28, further comprising time-hopping encoding the overlapping spectra.

31.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 30, further comprising frequency-hopping encoding the overlapping spectra.

32.   **(Currently Amended)**   A method ~~of signal transmission~~, comprising overlapping a plurality of synchronous direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals using carrier fequencies that are orthogonally spaced relative to integral sub-multiples of at least one bit rate rather than a chip rate.

33.   **(Original)**   The method of claim 32 wherein the plurality of synchronous direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals are overlapped relative to an integral sub-multiple of a common bit rate.

34.   **(Currently Amended)**   A method ~~of signal transmission~~, comprising overlapping a plurality of synchronous direct-sequence spread-spectrum signals using carrier fequencies that are orthogonally spaced relative to one-half of a bit rate rather than a chip rate.

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